

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) An adapter assembly for removably connecting two parallel cable protectors having side ramps in an adjacent side-by-side relationship, said adapter assembly comprising:
 - a central member bridging the void between the side ramps of two cable protectors placed in a parallel, side-by-side relationship with predetermined spacing and having an upper surface extending between the cable protectors; and
 - cable protector connectors extending from the central member to removably secure the cable protectors to the central member.
2. (currently amended) The adapter assembly of claim 1 wherein the cable protector connector removably engages the bottom of ~~a~~ the cable protectors.
3. (original) The adapter assembly of claim 1 further comprising:
 - a base member extending beneath the central member and at least a portion of both cable protectors; and
 - wherein said cable protector connectors extend from the base member to removably engage the bottoms of the cable protectors.
4. (currently amended) The adapter assembly of claim 3 wherein the cable protector ~~connector comprises~~ connectors comprise a protrusion extending upward from the base member to removably engage a corresponding recess in the bottom of ~~a~~ the cable ~~protector~~ protectors.

5. (original) The adapter assembly of claim 3 wherein the base member further comprises a central member connector removably engaging the base member to the central member.
6. (original) The adapter assembly of claim 3 wherein the base member further comprises at least one track for holding a cable.
7. (original) The adapter assembly of claim 3 wherein the base member extends the length of the central member.
8. (original) The adapter assembly of claim 1 wherein the central member has a substantially trapezoidal cross-section.
9. (original) The adapter assembly of claim 1 wherein the central member further comprises an end connector for removably engaging a second central member in an end-to-end relationship.
10. (original) The adapter assembly of claim 1 wherein the central member further comprises an upper surface providing a substantially continuous surface between the cable protectors.
11. (original) The adapter assembly of claim 1 further comprising tapered lateral edges complementing the side ramps of the cable protectors.
12. (original) The adapter assembly of claim 1 wherein the central member further comprises at least one track for holding a cable extending the length of the central member.

13. (original) An adapter assembly for removably connecting two parallel cable protectors having side ramps in an adjacent side-by-side relationship, said adapter assembly comprising:

 a central member bridging the void between the side ramps of two cable protectors placed in a parallel, side-by-side relationship with predetermined spacing and having:

 (a) an upper surface extending between the cable protectors; and

 (b) tapered lateral edges complementing the side ramps of the cable protectors; and

 at least one base member having:

 (a) lateral arms extending beneath both cable protectors;

 (b) cable protector connectors on the lateral arms to removably engage the cable protectors and thereby secure the cable protectors to the base member; and

 (c) a central member connector to removably secure the base member to the bottom of the central member.

14. (currently amended) The adapter assembly of claim 13 wherein the cable protector ~~connector comprises~~ connectors comprise a protrusion extending upward from the base member to removably engage a corresponding recess in the bottom of a the cable protector protectors.

15. (original) The adapter assembly of claim 13 wherein the central member has a substantially trapezoidal cross-section.

16. (original) The adapter assembly of claim 13 wherein the central member further comprises an end connector for removably engaging a second central member in an end-to-end relationship.

17. (original) The adapter assembly of claim 13 wherein the central member further comprises at least one track for holding a cable extending the length of the central member.

18. (original) An adapter assembly for removably connecting two parallel cable protectors having side ramps in an adjacent side-by-side relationship, said adapter assembly comprising:

 a central member bridging the void between the side ramps of two cable protectors placed in a parallel, side-by-side relationship with predetermined spacing and having:

 (a) an upper surface extending between the cable protectors; and

 (b) at least one track extending along the length of the bottom of the central member to hold cables; and

 a base member having:

 (a) lateral arms extending beneath both cable protectors;

 (b) cable protector connectors on the lateral arms to removably engage the cable protectors and thereby secure the cable protectors to the base member; and

 (c) a central member connector to removably secure the base member to the bottom of the central member, said central member connector having at least one track extending along the length of the central member to complement the tracks of the central member.

19. (original) The adapter assembly of claim 18 wherein the central member further comprises a recess in the bottom of the central member to removably engage the central member connector of the base member.

20. (currently amended) The adapter assembly of claim 18 wherein the cable protector ~~connector comprises connectors comprise~~ a protrusion extending upward from the base member to removably engage a corresponding recess in the bottom of ~~a the~~ ~~cable protector protectors~~.

21. (original) The adapter assembly of claim 18 wherein the base member extends the length of the central member.

22. (original) An adapter assembly for removably connecting two parallel cable protectors having side ramps in an adjacent side-by-side relationship, said adapter assembly comprising:

 a central member bridging the void between the side ramps of two cable protectors placed in a parallel, side-by-side relationship with predetermined spacing and having:

 (a) an upper surface extending between the cable protectors; and

 (b) a recess extending along the length of the bottom of the central member; and

 a base member having:

 (a) lateral arms extending beneath both cable protectors;

 (b) cable protector connectors on the lateral arms to removably engage the cable protectors and thereby secure the cable protectors to the base member; and

(c) a central member connector to removably secure the base member to the recess in the central member, said central member connector having at least one track extending along the length of the central member to hold cables.

23. (currently amended) The adapter assembly of claim 22 wherein the cable protector ~~connector comprises~~ connectors comprise a protrusion extending upward from the base member to removably engage a corresponding recess in the bottom of ~~a~~ the cable protector protectors.

24. (original) The adapter assembly of claim 22 wherein the base member extends the length of the central member.

25. (original) The adapter assembly of claim 22 wherein the central member further comprises an end connector for removably engaging a second central member in an end-to-end relationship.